Meeting of States Parties

Distr.: General
25 June 2009
English
Original: Spanish

Nineteenth Meeting
New York, 22-26 June 2009

Letter dated 25 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the documents circulated by the Secretariat for the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. With regard to document SPLOS/INF/22, Argentina notes that in paragraph 4, the only reference in inverted commas relates to a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. However, the document gives no indication of the origin of the text it mentions.

In that regard, the Argentine Republic requests that the principle set forth in editorial directive ST/CS/SER.A/42 should be applied, in accordance with which, when reference is made to those archipelagos, both names should be used in all official United Nations languages, as stated in the aforementioned directive, which further requires that acknowledgement should be made in a footnote of the existence of a dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty over those archipelagos.

Furthermore, with respect to the Spanish text of document SPLOS/INF/22, it should be noted that the provisions of the above-mentioned editorial directive have not been correctly applied, given that the dual nomenclature is inverted, and there is no footnote acknowledging the existence of a dispute over sovereignty.

With regard to the submission by the United Kingdom to which it must be assumed that the phrase in inverted commas in paragraph 4 of document SPLOS/INF/22 refers, the Argentine Republic draws attention to the note that it sent on 28 May 2009 to the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Buenos Aires. Argentina requested the circulation of that note as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 23, Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see A/63/890).

Argentina reasserts its legitimate right of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

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The Government of Argentina would be grateful if the Secretary-General would have this letter circulated as a document submitted to the nineteenth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative